Wireless
Telecommunications
Bureau

ULS Update

The Universal Licensing
System Newsletter

**Universal Licensing System
(ULS) Newsletter No. 2**

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Inside This Issue:

FCC Makes On-line Filing Faster with "Smart Update"

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has upgraded its Universal Licensing System (ULS) with "Smart Update" technology that reduces the amount of time needed to file license applications on-line by minimizing redundant file downloading.

Previously, every time a user logged on to ULS, Java applets would download certain files. With Smart Update, these files are downloaded the first time and stored on the user's hard drive. The system is "smart" enough to know not to download these files again unless they have been updated.

Now, when connecting to the ULS, the following will occur:

1. The ULS will automatically download two files to your Netscape directory. This will take approximately six minutes, during which time you will see a dialog box showing the progress of the file transfer.

2. Once the download is complete, you will be prompted to close and restart your Netscape browser. **Note**: You do not need to disconnect your modem.

3. After restarting your browser, use the ULS to file applications in the same way that you have done so in the past. You will notice significant increases in system speed.

Important information regarding use of Smart Update:

1. You will need 3 MB free disk space on your hard drive.
2. Smart Update works only with the Netscape browser.
3. When the ULS is upgraded by the FCC, the Netscape browser will automatically detect that it needs to update the downloaded files and the downloading process described above will be performed again. Currently, system upgrades are occurring at a rate of about one per month.

Administrative Update Function Activated

Licensees using the Universal Licensing System (ULS) are now able to make minor modifications/changes to existing license information electronically using a new Administrative Update function, in lieu of filing letter notifications.

Administrative Updates include changes in licensee information (name, address, phone, fax, email), contact information (name, address, phone, fax, email), control point information (address, city, state, county, phone), as well as the addition and deletion of control points. There are no fees associated with Administrative Updates.

Interactive Demonstrations Acquaint Users With ULS

Due to the success of the ULS interactive demonstrations held in March, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) will conduct additional demonstrations in April and is seeking feedback from those interested in attending in order to better coordinate and design the events.

FCC will hold two demonstrations per day on the second, third, fourth and fifth Thursday in April in the Portals Training Room in Washington, DC. The first session will run from 9:30 am until noon and the second from 1:30 pm until 4:00 pm. The topics for the April demonstrations are:

April 8th -- Finding information in the ULS (License and Application Search)

April 15th -- Transfers and Assignments (Form 603 only)

April 22nd -- General license filings (focus on Cellular/Paging/PCS modifications, notifications, waivers, and STAs)

April 29th -- Finding information in the ULS (License and Application Search)

The Commission chose the topics based on feedback from the demonstrations held in March and will add, delete or modify future demonstrations as interest dictates. FCC plans to hold ULS demonstrations on additional wireless services as they are deployed.

FCC realizes that some interested parties may be located outside the Washington, DC area and encourages such parties to inform the Commission of their particular needs/locations so that we can attempt to accommodate them. Feedback also is requested as to whether FCC should hold interactive demonstrations at its Gettysburg, PA, office, and on future topics for the demonstrations.

Parties interested in attending the interactive demonstrations and/or providing comments should contact Tonya Savage at (202) 418-0596, or via e-mail at tmsavage@fcc.gov. Please indicate which session(s) you would like to attend. Seating is limited and will be assigned on a first come, first served basis (requests will be limited to one attendee per organization, company or firm). *Note*: FCC is able to accommodate up to 14 persons per session, and an attendee may have to share a computer monitor with another attendee.

Frequently Asked Questions

I have had problems dialing into ULS using the dial-up networking function included in Windows 95. When I try to add ULS to my dial-up menu, I lose other previously installed dial-up information. How can I fix this problem?

Some Windows 95 users have reported problems adding new dial-up numbers with the original version of Dial-Up Networking (Version 1.0) contained in Windows 95. An upgraded version of the Dial-Up Networking (Version 1.3) for Windows 95 is available from Microsoft. Version 1.3 can be downloaded for free at: http://www.microsoft.com/windows95/download s/contents/wurecommended/s_wunetworking/du n13win95/default.asp.

Why doesn't ULS run on the Internet?

ULS operates on a private wide-area network (WAN) rather than the Internet because it provides greater system security and reliability. As Internet technology improves, however, we are exploring the possibility of placing some ULS functions on the Internet in the future, so that ULS users would have the option of accessing ULS through the Internet or continuing to use the WAN.

What happens if I have problems loading or printing Form 159?

If you experience problems loading or printing the form, call Technical Support at 202-414-1250.

Why doesn't Form 159 print as a single page?

The printable Form 159 is built as a standard web page using HTML commands. Currently, HTML lacks commands to control page breaks.

Will ULS accept attachments in WordPerfect Version 7.0?

Yes. We have received some reports of problems but our testing indicates that WP 7.0 files can be uploaded as attachments to ULS applications. If you experience problems, contact Technical Support at 202-414-1250.

Administrative Update … (from page 1)

The electronic Administrative Update function benefits licensees and the FCC by providing a quick and easy means for licensees to review and correct licensee, contact and control point information, ensuring accurate, timely delivery of licenses, renewal notices, construction notices, and correspondence from the Bureau to licensees. During the first month of availability, licensees electronically filed nearly 1,300 Administrative Updates, most of which were processed within one day. Prior to the activation of Administrative Update, changes were made through a manual process that took days or weeks. More information about the Administrative Update function can be found in a Public Notice issued by the Commission which is available at http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls.

Licensees whose services have been deployed in ULS should access the system by dialing into the FCC's extranet (instructions can be found at http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls) and use the License Search function to identify outdated licensee, contact, and control point information.

Upon identifying outdated information, licensees should use the Online Filing function, enter their Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), Sub-Group Identification Number (SGIN) (if necessary) and password, select New Filing, and choose Administrative Update as the purpose of application. The ULS allows licensees to update licensee and contact information for multiple call signs simultaneously, but *control point information must be changed one call sign at a time*.

Note: Licensees are reminded that the Administrative Update function may not be used to record any change to the licensee name or other licensing information that constitutes or reflects an assignment of the license or a transfer of control of the licensee. All license assignments and transfers of control (including *pro forma* transfers and assignments) require filing of the appropriate transfer or assignment application and prior Commission consent or (in the case of *pro forma* transfers and assignments subject to the Commission's forbearance procedures, *see Memorandum Opinion and Order*, 13 FCC Rcd. 6293(1998)) filing of a transfer or assignment notification.   Use of the Administrative Update function to record a transfer or assignment will be treated as an unauthorized change of control of the license in violation of Section 310(d) of the Communications Act and Commission rules.

As with all filings under the ULS, licensees must first register their TIN and provide the call sign(s) associated with the TIN. Licensees may register their TIN electronically via the internet by pointing their web browsers at http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls and selecting Call Sign Registration.

Technical Support/Contact Information

For general information about ULS, including answers to frequently asked questions regarding submitting applications, finding the status of pending applications, and searching the ULS database, the Commission recommends first consulting the ULS webpage at http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/uls. Those having specific questions not addressed on the webpage may contact Commission staff via phone or e-mail as described below.

FCC Technical Support Hotline: (202) 414-1250 (TTY: (202) 414-1255), or via e-mail at ulscomm@fcc.gov. Contact the Technical Support Hotline about questions concerning computer access to ULS, TIN registration, uploading files, or submitting attachments in ULS. The hotline is available Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm EST. In order to provide better service to ULS users and ensure the security of the electronic filing system, *all calls to the hotline are recorded*.

ULS Licensing Support: (202) 418-7ULS (418-7857), or via e-mail at bwoodwar@fcc.gov. For Aircraft questions you may call (717) 338-2646, or via e-mail at dreeder@fcc.gov. Contact Licensing Support with questions about which application purpose(s) are appropriate for a particular filing, what information is being requested on a ULS form or schedule, or any other ULS-related licensing matter. ULS Licensing Support is available Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm EST.

Comments on ULS should be sent via the Internet to: ulscomm@fcc.gov.